



Furry friends take a stroll in May
Fundraiser raises money to help train puppies for their future lives as guide dogs.

News 6

Monday, March 8, 2004

Spoke

Conestoga College, Kitchener

36th Year — No. 9



(Photo by Jason Smith)

More than 1,300 students signed the "Stop the Strike" petition over three days. CSI held rallies on Monday and Tuesday in the Sanctuary to raise awareness.

Students support 'Stop the Strike'

By JASON SMITH

Students at Conestoga College did their part to "Stop the Strike," attending a rally on March 1 and 2 in the Sanctuary.

The event, organized by Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI), was held in conjunction with rallies across the province, as called for by the College Student Alliance (CSA). The CSA governs Ontario's colleges as the provincial student association.

The goal of the rally was to make students aware of the importance of the strike and to allow students and faculty alike to speak out and be heard by the community and government.

The rally acted as a catalyst for students to be heard, both inside the schools and in Ontario's parliament buildings.

Conestoga students were encouraged to make their way to the Sanctuary and sign petitions at the rally. The petitions urged the Ontario government to ensure the province's college students would not "lose any contact days as a result of a strike."

The rally also provided students with information tables full of booklets about CSI, the CSA, the strike process and more, including music courtesy of a Conestoga student DJ, free juice, free Timbits as well as various raffles and giveaways.

Justin Falconer, CSI president, said the CSA was looking to compile more than 15,000 signatures in just a couple of days.

Falconer also said he believes support at Conestoga was well received.

"Overall, we're really impressed with the amount of student support we've had for the petition cam-

paign and sending a message to Queen's Park," he said. "We're definitely very excited that students are engaged in this activity. I'm really happy about what we've seen here."

The CSA's game plan was to make their way to Queen's Park on March 8 where group representatives would hand over the petitions to the provincial government and make a clear indication that Ontario's college students will be the ones losing out in unsuccessful collective bargaining.

Although a strike was averted, Falconer said it was important that students had a voice in the matter.

Many students at the rally said they appreciate the efforts of CSI and the CSA and agree that the strike rally was for a good cause.

"I think the rally was a great idea," said Luc Perrault, a second-year police foundations student. "It seems like the college is getting the support it needs and for once everyone is getting involved. This is a topic I think most students agree on, so it's like everyone's working together to try to solve the problem."

The positive attitude students had was reflected in the number of signatures added to the petitions during the rally.

The support proved that students were aware of the damage a strike could have caused.

"It's very important for the college to put on an event like this," said Geoff Cain, another second-year police foundations student. "As much as most of us would like to sit at home and not to go to class, the reality is a strike would really hurt us. We'd be losing out on the education we pay for, and we'd potentially be losing even more money in the long run."

CBSA taking a breather

The self-funded organization has dissolved after 25 years.

News 5

Prison program fulfills dreams

A 57-year-old prisoner hopes college program will lead to better life.

News 3

Strike averted

With only six hours to spare a deal was struck

By JEFF MORLEY

A deal was struck between the colleges and OPSEU late last Tuesday to avert a strike by 8,600 college faculty, counsellors and librarians.

Walter Boettger, president of local 237, is pleased. "We are happy. We're not on the picket line."

Boettger says he likes the salary increases and the improvements in attitude on workload by management.

John Tibbits, president of Conestoga College, is also happy that the deal came through. "What we had to do as a management group was to look at the big picture." Management also wanted to keep the doors of the college open to students.

Joc Romer, an advertising teacher with the college, is also happy with the outcome. "I think it's great. The main reason is there was no stoppage in school. So it was great for the students." While Romer had not seen the details of the contract at press time, overall he thinks it is fair.

Teachers saw a pay increase of 7.3 per cent over the next two

years. Faculty received a three per cent increase that will be retroactive to Sept. 1, 2003. An additional .5 per cent increase will come into effect this April. Another two per cent increase is set for September 2004, followed by a 1.8 per cent increase in April 2005.

"We are happy. We're not on the picket line."

*Walter Boettger,
local 237 OPSEU president*

The recognition allowance for faculty will also increase from \$700 to \$1,400 on April 1, 2005. Boettger says those teachers who are in Step 20 of their pay grid for one year are entitled to the allowance. The allowance would then be paid out in increments over one year.

The contentious issue of workload has been referred to a joint task force.

Boettger explains that class sizes have increased. Over the last five years full-time college students have increased by 43 per cent,

while full-time faculty has decreased by 23 per cent. Better workload management would allow faculty more one-on-one time with students.

The drug benefit plan remains unchanged. However, the college is no longer looking at the use of a drug card. The college had wanted faculty to use the card when purchasing prescription drugs. The card only covered generic drugs and did not account for any new drugs that would come on the market.

Furthermore, every college must instate a return-to-work policy for people who are on long-term disability. The policy would enable those with disabilities to return to work gradually. Boettger says Conestoga College already uses this practice, but the new contract will allow them to formalize the policy.

A joint insurance committee has also been selected to find ways of making retiree benefits more affordable.

A strike would have affected 24 colleges across the province and approximately 180,000 students. The last strike was in 1989 and lasted 20 days.



(Photo by James Clark)

Media attention

The threat of a strike attracted a lot of media outlets to Conestoga College. Above, James McDonald (left), a reporter from CKCO, went live from the college on March 2 at noon and six, updating the public on the situation. McDonald is shown interviewing Walter Boettger, OPSEU local 237 president, who gave the union's side of the issues.

Now deep thoughts ...with Conestoga College

Random questions answered by random students

What superhuman power do you possess?



"I am the most likeable person known to man."
Scott Foster

"I am the human sponge."
Chris Donnelly



"I have the ability to look at somebody and know what they are really thinking."
Amy Power



"I have the ability to say 'no' when I am drunk."
Nathan Supelak



"I can serve my man's every need and still have time for big beer Wednesday."
Morgan Slotsvee



"Iron lungs, liver of gold."
Nathan Brown

Smile Conestoga, you could be our next respondent!

Kwinter to talk at banquet

Minister of community safety and corrections new keynote speaker

By JENNIFER HOWDEN

The law and security administration and police foundations banquet has a new keynote speaker, after the initial speaker backed out due to business reasons.

Monte Kwinter will speak at the banquet on March 27 at Bingeman Park in Kitchener.

Kwinter is the minister of community safety and corrections and has been asked to speak about recent legislative changes impacting on police and private sector enforcement.

Don Douglas, law and security administration and police foundations co-ordinator, said he is happy with the choice of new speaker.

"We are very honoured to have Monte," he said. "He is the ideal candidate to speak to our students and our alumni."

John Maloy, parliamentary assistant to the minister of intergovernment and the MPP of Kitchener Centre, is also a speaker.

Chris Ecklund, owner of Canada Process Service Inc., was the original keynote speaker but, according to Douglas, was unable to attend because of "business reasons."

Ecklund, a Conestoga graduate, was to donate a trip for two anywhere in Canada the airline WestJet flies. He was also going to donate weekend accommodations for two at the four-diamond Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls.

Since Ecklund is no longer available for the banquet, his donations are no longer available.

However, a letter was sent to WestJet explaining the situation and WestJet sent a \$3,900 prize to be raffled off. Also, a letter was sent to the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel. Organizers are still waiting for a response from the hotel.

In e-mail correspondence with Spoke, Ecklund expressed surprise with the turn of events.

"That's news to me," he wrote about his no longer being the guest speaker and no longer donating prizes.

Correspondence to get clarification from Ecklund were ignored.

The banquet is open to both past and present students of the police foundations and law and security administration programs. A total of 2,500 letters were sent out to alumni, and organizers say the response has been good.

It is being held to not only unite old classmates but to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the law and security program.

Tickets are \$60 each or \$100 per couple. A total of 1,000 tickets are being sold.

Fundraising events have been held throughout the year.

Any additional money raised from auctions and the banquet will be donated to R.O.O.F., a local charity that provides homeless youth with health care, education and job training.

Students make the grade

By DAWN HASSON

A number of engineering students went out to celebrate after delivering their successful third-year presentations.

On Feb. 19, their hands shaking and their voices sometimes stuttering, they delivered their PowerPoint presentations in front of about 40 students and faculty members. Four judges graded them.

Graduating students from the telecommunications engineering technology program and the computer engineering technology program at Conestoga College presented their projects that will be handed in at the end of the school year. For the first time ever, students in the software engineering technician program at the Waterloo campus also took part.

Students have to write a proposal at the beginning of the year for their project. This way, teachers can give students approval and students have enough time to complete the project, especially if something should go wrong.

"Time and availability of parts can change your project so you can repropose it," said Linda Elliott, the class representative for the computer engineering technology program. "You can't change the entire project but you can modify it so that what you have in April matches what you said you'd have."

Students have to keep a lab book to describe what they've done to create their project and fix any problems that could arise.

"If a part doesn't work at the end of the year then at least you've documented it and the teacher knows

that you've tried to fix it," said Elliott.

Presentations included projects for broadband connection, wireless intercom systems, free airtime communications and MP3 wireless headphones.

"The hope is that everybody's project works at the end of the year," said Elliott. "If it can be marketed, then that's great."

Students are given \$75 each to buy parts, but the rest of the funding is up to them.

"Either it's out of your own pocket or you go to corporate sponsors," said Elliott.

Some students can do a project for a company. Elliott's group did their project for Bruce Power Corp.

If engineering students fail the project, they don't graduate. Luckily, Elliott said the presentations went really well.



Watch your step!

The balmy temperatures last weekend made for an early spring thaw, leaving small ponds of water on K-W sidewalks.

(Photo by Carla Sandham)

Prison program helps fulfill dreams

By PETR CIHACEK

Starting a college program when you are a 57-year-old prisoner takes colossal dreams and guts — and that's exactly what Pearl Taylor has.

"I'm very courageous," says Taylor, a cheerful, dark-skinned woman with a big heart and body who's doing time at Kitchener's Grand Valley Institution for women.

Last month, Taylor enrolled in focus for change/employment, a 12-week Conestoga College program designed to help inmates plan their life, work and career options.

"I thought I'd give it a shot and I'm glad that I did," she says. "The first week I felt really good about myself, even though I'm in prison."

Taylor hopes the program will improve her communication skills and give her a better understanding of people's personalities. Once she is released at the end of the year, these skills might help her realize something she's been dreaming about since she came to Canada from Jamaica in 1970.

"I want to work for a travel agency and, with the help of my family, to start my own agency."

And she is sure that will be easy to do as she is experienced in travel sales and her friend owns a travel agency in Brampton where she would work for five years before opening her own business.

Taylor has been in the prison for four months. She's hoping to be released to a halfway house in six months and to be completely free in December. Then she can make a thick line behind her troubling past.

"I was first here (in prison) in 1998 for importation of marijuana," she says. "I spent seven months here and then I was released to the halfway house."

After that, she was fully released on the condition she will report to a



(Photo by Petr Cihacek)

Pearl Taylor, 57, hopes to open her own travel agency after she is released from the Grand Valley Institution. Taylor was arrested in 1998 for importation of marijuana but is now serving time for violation of parole.

police station every month, which she did for seven months.

"Then I had major family problems and I didn't report," she says. "I was scared to go back and I never came back for three years."

After three years of hiding, she was arrested for violation of parole and went back to the Grand Valley Institution.

"My family thinks I shouldn't be in prison and that I should have a second chance," says the grandmother of three, her usually cheery voice suddenly drowned in sadness. "They miss me a lot. Sometimes they cry on the phone

and I cry too."

According to Taylor, being in touch with family is what makes life in prison more bearable.

"Some people don't have family support and they are sad," she says. "I usually support those people. I tell them that God loves them and so do I."

According to Dianne Murphy, who facilitates the focus for change/employment program, Taylor's kindness is why inmates in her unit "look up to her like their mom."

"She is the peacekeeper," says Murphy. "She loves when other

people are in harmony."

Her classmates described Taylor as friendly, truthful and courageous.

"She's very young for her age," said one of them.

Taylor and her nine classmates will graduate from the program and will get their college certificates April 2. And it won't be her first certificate as she has already taken a number of other courses and studying became a big part of her prison routine.

"Our programs usually start at 8 a.m. and they finish usually at 3 or 4 p.m.," she says. "Then we go to our units and have an official count

at 4:30 p.m. When it's clear we can go out but we have to be back in the unit by 10 p.m."

The students have their classes in the big central building that looks like a school rather than a minimum and medium security prison. The institution's offices are in the same building. Inmates live in small units scattered behind a high fence topped with barbed wire where everyone has her own room with a small bed and a TV.

"There are 10 people in a unit," explains Taylor. "I usually stay in my room and read, watch TV, play music or dance. I love dancing."

Maximum-security offenders to be held in Kitchener

By AIMEE WILSON

Kitchener's Grand Valley Institute for Women (GVI) will soon be housing maximum-security offenders.

According to Marion Evans, a team leader with GVI, the maximum-security unit will be ready within the next two months.

The new unit will be designed within the regional women's facility that currently holds minimum-security and medium-security prisoners.

As of Sept. 3, 1999, when Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay announced plans to transfer those women needing maximum security from either the Prison for Women in Kingston or from men's institutions into regional facilities, approximately 65 women required specific intensive supervision and treatment.

In the news release, MacAulay said, "I have no doubt that, given the security and other changes to be made, the existing regional women's facilities will be able to assume these responsibilities."

Strategy, as it has been called, has several factors. The first was to modify and expand the existing four regional women's facilities in Joliette, Que., Kitchener, Truro, N.S. and Edmonton, Alta.

The second was to construct houses in the facilities to accommodate approximately 35 women classified as minimum or medium security with special needs and/or mental health problems.

In 2001, the designs and construction were underway and in December of that year the Structured Living Environment houses were in operation.

The third was to close the women's units currently located in men's institutions in Saskatchewan, Quebec and Nova Scotia. On March 25, 2003 the women's unit at Saskatchewan Penitentiary closed.

The fourth factor was to close the Prison for Women in Kingston, which occurred in 2000.

The secure unit at Nova Institution opened Jan. 16, 2003 followed by the opening of the secure unit at Edmonton Institution for Women Feb. 25, 2003.

The maximum-security unit in Kitchener will be located on a separate part of the Grand Valley Institute premise. The unit will have its own outdoor exercise yard with specialized staff to ensure a high level of supervision is maintained.

The construction of these new units within the four facilities will cost approximately \$12 million. The Structured Living Environment houses will cost an additional \$5 million.

The total annual operating cost for the program at all four facilities will be approximately \$9.3 million, \$2.3 million less than it cost to operate the Prison for Women and the existing units in men's institutions.

According to the news release, 138 jobs will be created.

In 1999, according to a report from Correctional Service Canada, 855 women were serving federal sentences in Canada.

Of those, 354 were imprisoned in an institution and the remaining 501 were on conditional release in the community.

As of March 2002, according to an article written by Jane Laishes

from Mental Health, Health Services, 866 women were classified under federal sentences which only made up four per cent of the total of federal imprisonments. Since 1997 the numbers have shown that there are more women on conditional sentences than in prison.

Contrary to what many believe, it costs more money to incarcerate women than it does men because of the fewer numbers. Also, the requirement to provide women with treatment programs and services also adds to the existing cost.

In 1998-99, it cost a federal institution \$87,135 a year to imprison a male offender in maximum security. In the same year, the average annual cost to incarcerate a female offender in one of the four regional facilities was \$113,610.

Therefore, the low numbers indicated that it was quite costly to keep the Prison for Women, and the units in the men's institutions in operation for such a small number of women.

The Prison for Women opened in 1934. Since the 1930s, task forces and various other groups examined

the environment and setting of the institution.

In 1977, the Parliamentary Sub-Committee Report on the Penitentiary System in Canada said it was "unfit for bears, much less women."

After many interviews with women who were in the Prison for Women, many highlighted the need for a place with respect, support and a chance to take responsibility for their lives. The institution did not have the necessary programs and rehabilitation facilities that were needed. As a result, the Prison for Women was closed and the four regional facilities, including GVI, were designed.

Grand Valley Institute for Women, which opened in 1997 continues to provide essential programs that help women offenders take control of their lives.

"This strategy will ensure that federal women offenders can live in an environment more suitable to their need while ensuring public safety," said MacAulay in the news release, adding, "It is a natural evolution of the new Women Offender Program."

Strike prevented, students happy

At approximately 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, colleges and the union representing faculty, librarians and counsellors came to an agreement and a province-wide strike was averted.

Full-time staff received approximately a seven and a half per cent increase in salary over the next two years, a promise that workload would be reviewed by a joint task force, an increase in their recognition allowance, an unchanged drug benefit plan and a return to work policy for people on long-term disability.

All of which teachers are happy with.

However, the people who came out of this the happiest, is the students.

With only a few months left to go in the year, a strike could have pushed back the semester, leaving thousands of students without summer jobs and places to live as well as preventing them from graduating.

The last couple of months have been stressful for everyone and the question that remains is, could this have been settled without the threat of a strike?

Although OPSEU officials think not, students have to wonder if this extremity was necessary.

Coming back from spring break, students did not know if they were going to finish off the week, let alone the semester.

For graduating students, the future of leaving school and moving on was looking bleak.

Although no school year has been lost to a strike, in 1984, colleges went on strike for 24 days and in 1989, 20 days.

This time around, the union wanted a 3 per cent increase in September 2003 and another 3 per cent in September 2004. As well, they wanted to receive a 1.5 per cent increase in April 2004 and another 1.5 per cent in April 2005.

However, if a strike had happened, faculty could have lost more wages while on the picket line then they would potentially have gained through negotiated wage increases.

With this agreement, they not only have a task force reviewing workload, but they received pay increases of three per cent, retroactive to September 1, 2003, a .5 per cent increase in April 2004, a 2 per cent increase in September 2004, and a 1.8 per cent increase in April 2005.

Salary and workload were the two main issues dividing the two sides.

Over the last five years full-time college students have increased by 43 per cent while full-time faculty has decreased by 23 per cent.

Faculty is hoping the task force will reduce the workload, allowing for more one-on-one time with students.

Although a strike has been averted this time around, in January, OPSEU's two-year contract will expire in 2005 and back to the tables they will go.

Hopefully next time around, a strike threat will not be necessary and students will be able to finish their year with no worries.



Spring break expectations

Come 4 p.m. Feb. 20 I was throwing on my shades and high-tailing it out of the parking lot, ready for a much-needed break from the daily stresses of school.

Reading week had officially arrived.

But when I found myself doing school work and other school-related errands on the break, I was definitely far from enjoying a little R & R. After a weekend of working at my part-time job I thought the upcoming week would show me some good times.

Monday morning had arrived. The sun was finally beaming down on my face for the first time in about four months. It was the first beautiful day of the year and I was enjoying the sun's rays blinding me as I drove west along the 401 to film part of my television documentary with a friend. It was the same story Tuesday as we headed east this time to Toronto to do more



Aimee Wilson
Opinion

filming.

After two days of straight project work I decided to look at the bright side of it all and knew I had a great two days spending it with a friend.

As the week ticked away I actually had some time to think about my future and where I was going to be in the next two months once I graduated.

Realizing I really had no plan I started freaking out and the rest of the week consisted of scurrying around updating my resume, cover letter and portfolio for my fast-approaching internship and possible career path.

The rest of the week consisted of travelling back to my hometown to visit family and do my weekend of freelance work for the community newspaper.

Although I was being responsible in preparing myself for the life ahead of me, I still wish I had spent my last college spring break doing something other than catching up on school work.

I know I wasn't alone though. I talked to many of my friends over the break and found out they too were actually reading during reading week.

And now it is back to the grind as I sit here and pound away at the keys, brainstorming over story ideas for Spoke.

So, if you were fortunate enough to be one of those few who actually got a chance to go south over the break, don't be offended if I give you a dirty look in the halls. I'm just envious of your tan.



Letters are welcome

Spoke welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be signed and include the name and telephone number of the writer. Writers will be contacted for verification.

No unsigned letters will be published. Letters should be no longer than 500 words.

Spoke reserves the right to edit any letter for publication.

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Spoke

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CBSA is taking a breather for now

By DAWN HASSON

Students in the school of business at Conestoga College should prepare to be disappointed.

The Computer and Business Students Association (CBSA) is taking a breather for now.

"It's not officially discontinued. It's kind of there but it's not there," said Frank Mensink, the dean of the school of business.

At the beginning of the year, the CBSA had only three active executive members.

According to Mensink, this made it hard to keep the student organization going.

"Of those three, there were only two that were actually here and in an actual program," said Mensink. "I guess there wasn't any interest on the part of students to keep it going."

Mensink also said it was difficult to build momentum for the organization without "going in and taking over."

"It's not a good idea anyway for faculty or administration to be involved in a student organization other than as a mentoring type," said Mensink.

The CBSA was self-funded and organized biz bashes every year to raise funds.

"Biz bashes were really there not only to bring students together but also as a formal way of raising funds to offset the cost of other activities the CBSA had," said Mensink.

The awards banquet was the other major activity the student organization organized over the last few years.

The CBSA started in 1979 because students and staff in the school of business wanted to buy computer equipment for the business lab. However, that function was no longer needed after the college developed open computer labs for student use.

"Now that the open labs are here, there's no real reason for significant fundraising by a student organization other than as a basis for keeping the price for the awards banquet at a reasonable level," said Mensink.

The student-run organization also dissolved due to scheduling conflicts with Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI).

"One thing that's happened in the past is the CBSA was very much separate and independent of CSI and there has been some conflict between the two organizations because there wasn't the co-operation that should happen between student organizations," said Mensink.

Also, the CBSA dissolved because students who were in the computer program are now in information technology, which is no longer a part of the school of business.

Mensink hopes to rekindle student interest in the organization and he would like to have an awards banquet.

"I would like to see a resurrection of some form of CBSA in the future, but probably one that is a part of CSI," he said.

Mensink will be meeting with Ethan Miller, vice-president of student activities, and Justin Falconer, president of CSI, to see if they can collaborate on events in the future.

He hopes to hold an awards banquet this year with the help of CSI.



(Photo by Lesley Leachman)

Shooting hoops!

Cody Tillerman, 6, takes advantage of the warm sunshine in Waterloo Park. Temperatures in the region reached 8 C last week.

CLASSIFIEDS

CAMP WAYNE FOR GIRLS

Children's sleep-away camp, Northeast Pennsylvania, June 18 - August 15, 2004. If you love children and want to have a GREAT summer we need female staff as Directors and Instructors for: Tennis, Swimming, (W.S.I. preferred) Golf, Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Drama, Camping/Nature, High and Low Ropes, team Sports, Waterskiing, Sailing, Ceramics, Silkscreen, Printmaking, Batik, Jewelry, Calligraphy, Photography, Sculpture, Guitar, Aerobics, Self-defense, Video, Piano. Other positions: Administrative/Driver, Nurses (RN's and nursing student). On campus interviews March 20. Call 1-800-279-3019 or apply online at www.campwayneforgirls.com.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Erbsville Kartway. Waterloo requires people for its Pit Crew, Grounds maintenance and Concession Stand starting weekends, Easter Weekend and full time during the summer months. The season ends Thanksgiving Weekend. For more information call: 884-5650.



Falconer returns as president

Justin Falconer (centre) will be returning as president of the CSI for the 2004-2005 academic year. Ethan Miller (left) and Scott Ingram-Cotton also ran for president.

(Photo by Carrie Hoto)

workopolisCampus.com
CANADA'S BIGGEST JOB SITE FOR STUDENTS

Conestoga College and workopolisCampus.com have joined forces to make your job search a whole lot easier. Whether you're looking for part-time, summer, graduate employment, or volunteer work, we have postings for all types of available positions. We even post jobs exclusively for Conestoga students. All you need to do is sign up at workopolisCampus.com and enter the Conestoga password; available in the Career Services Office upstairs in the Student Client Services Building, Room 220.

workopolisCampus.com
CANADA'S BIGGEST JOB SITE FOR STUDENTS

Conestoga
College



(Photo by Michelle Taylor)

It's a fun-filled day for dog guides in May

BY MICHELLE TAYLOR

It started out as a rainy day, but people came anyway. People and their four-legged furry friends.

It was the second annual

Kitchener-Waterloo Walk for Dog Guides. Last May, people and their dogs made their way to Waterloo Park to enjoy a day of fun, food and exercise.

They all came for a good cause.

Weeks before the walk they collected pledges so that someone in their community could enjoy a dog guide as a companion.

Participants managed to raise just over \$16,500. This year, the K-W Walk for Dog Guides Committee has set a goal of \$20,000. If they reach that figure, they will have enough money to sponsor a dog in the community.

Melody Ziegler, a member of the committee, expects this year's walk to be even better than last year's. "We try to make it as big of an event as possible."

Ziegler was asked to be a member of the committee because she is a foster mom. She takes in puppies that are expected to become dog guides and raises them until they are about 10 to 12 months old.

The walk exists in order to raise money to help train these dogs for their future lives as dog guides. "We have such a love for these puppies," she says. "It's just great to be a part of (the walk)."

The puppies will eventually become one of three types of dog guides: a canine-vision dog, spe-

cial-skills dog or hearing-ear dog.

The Kitchener-Waterloo walk is dedicated to Rita Francois and her special-skills dog Clementine.

Mary Lou Perreault is Francois's daughter. She kept Clementine after her mother died and she is now chair of the committee.

Want to volunteer you can volunteer a couple hours of your time on the day of the walk or you can be part of the planning itself. On the day of the walk you could be responsible for registration, handing out prizes, or just making sure the participants know what they are doing.

This year there will be a contest and prizes, but there will not be an agility show. Perreault says it is because they got behind in the schedule last year because of problems with the agility.

This year they want to stay on track. "(Participants) are spending their time getting pledges and spending their time (at the walk)," she says. "I just want it to be good."

The five-kilometre walk will take place at Waterloo Park in Waterloo on May 29 at the Westmount Road entrance. "This year there will be a big blown-up bull dog at the entrance," says Perreault. "So it will be noticeable."

Anyone is welcome to come and you don't have to have a dog to participate. Pledge forms can be picked up at your local vet or pet store.

If you want to volunteer, contact Mary Lou Perreault at 742-5280. The committee does not have a website set up just yet, but they hope to have one running by next year. However, they can be reached by e-mail at www.kwwalkfordogguides@hotmail.com.



She says the walk is not only about raising money. "When we started this it wasn't just to raise money, but to raise awareness as well."

Both Perreault and Ziegler say awareness about dog guides is important. The more people know about their cause and what dog guides are capable of, the more they will be willing to volunteer at events and help educate others about the program.

Volunteers are an important part of the walk, according to Perreault and Ziegler. "We're looking for volunteers to help out the day of the walk," says Perreault. If you



(Photo by Michelle Taylor)

This Alaskan malamute puppy took part in its first Walk for Dog Guides last May. This year's walk will take place on May 29 at Waterloo Park in Waterloo.

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Objects in the mirror may be a lot dumber than they appear

By JASON MIDDLETON

Forget coffee.

My eye-opener on a Monday morning is the idiot who tailgates me all the way down Homer Watson Boulevard.

I do not enjoy being so close to the car behind me that not only can I hear the argument the driver and his wife are having, but also I can choose a side.

I think my rearview mirror should be relabeled to say, "objects in the mirror may be angrier and closer than they appear."

According to Dr. Leon James in an article posted at the Smart Motorist website, www.smartmotorist.com, Americans driving family and economy cars are half as likely to tailgate compared to those who drive sports car and SUVs.

Tailgating is following too closely to the vehicle in front of you and 13 per cent of both males and females driving family and economy cars tailgate. And 23 per cent of males and 20 per cent of females driving sports cars tailgate. Topping the tailgating elite are women who drive SUVs, as 25 per cent are guilty of the aggressive driving behaviour.

It really bugs me when these tailgaters expect me to speed because they are on my butt. As someone who has been ticketed for

speeding twice, I'm more aware of my speed.

Sometimes I wonder if tailgaters (at least, that's what I'll call them in print. I have another unprintable name I really use) realize how dangerous their driving is. Tailgating is a leading cause of crashes.

The website Smart Motorist recommends drivers have a distance of at least three seconds between them and the car in front of them.

The three-second rule requires a driver to select a fixed object, such as a sign or tree, on the road ahead and count slowly to three.

The website says if you reach the fixed object before completing the count to three you are following too closely.

At night, in heavy traffic and during bad weather, they recommend doubling the time to six seconds for additional safety.

In Waterloo Region there are approximately 9,000 reportable collisions annually. Since 1998 there has been a 30 per cent increase of collisions in the region.

Another problem I've noticed is the speed people travel on the roads.

Seeing vehicles travelling 100 km/h down Homer Watson Boulevard is a common sight on my everyday drive to the college.

My question is, where are the speed traps?



(Photo by Jason Middleton)

Road rage and tailgating are all issues that Conestoga students deal with on their drive to the college.



(Photo by Jeff Morley)

You're awfully chirpy today!

Chickadees hang out by a feeding station in Starky's Loop, a conservation area south of Guelph. The chirp "chick-a-dee-dee" of the black-capped chickadee is one of the most complex vocalizations in the animal kingdom.



(Photo by Kate Vandeven)

Ain't life a beach

Carla Black, Lisa Nosal, Kevin Wilson and Scott Rawlings enjoy the sun and pool in Daytona Beach during spring break. Over 1,400 students from across Canada were in Daytona.

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Counsellor finds work rewarding

By DARREN SMITH

Providing guidance to students with disabilities is rewarding work for a counsellor at the Doon campus of Conestoga College.

When Kelly Nixon came to the college 12 years ago she was hired on contract to work as a counsellor in the employment preparation programs. This position lasted a year at which time she applied for a position in the disability services offices.

Although the contract work was full-time, Nixon became a permanent employee of the college five years ago. While on contract she was often unsure if funding would be available.

"I would have my bags packed thinking the position was over," said Nixon, "but they found more funding."

At the Doon campus there are three full-time disability counsellors and one working three days a week.

Nixon works with about 140 students who have various disabilities. She makes accommodation arrangements for students needing additional time on tests and pre-screens students who may have learning difficulties.

Through a series of tests counsellors are able to determine if a student has a learning disability and requires additional help. It is important for counsellors to determine if learning difficulties are related to a disability or as the

result of stress.

Sometimes anxiety or symptoms of depression can look like a learning disability.

"We have to pull apart some of the student's history to figure out what the cause is," said Nixon.

If a learning disability is suspected after this testing then they go forward with a formal psycho-educational assessment to pinpoint the cause of the learning difficulties.

Getting students the help they require and providing support are part of her responsibilities.

Some students may not be at the point where they have accepted the disability as being with them for life. In these cases Nixon is able to assist them with coping strategies.

"Students kind of set the stage for me," she said. "I then suggest options I think might help them the best."

In the past many people with disabilities found that getting an education was impossible.

Many mature people with disabilities coming back to school are finding there are options available now that might not have been there when they were first in school. Nixon finds this rewarding.

She has a student who will graduate in April and has watched this student go from having significant difficulties in her courses to being quite successful.

This success came through counselling, learning some of the adaptive technology and soft-

ware, and accommodations for tests.

"Her knowledge now is being measured and not her difficulties," said Nixon. "Situations like this keep me going in this field."

At times counselling can be emotionally demanding and she finds it a constant effort to not take things home.

Some student issues are troubling and some of the situations are quite sad but she is reminded of the fact that the students are at the college, which tells her how great their spirit is on the inside as they keep going.

Nixon is conscious of keeping her energy up through exercise, talking with fellow employees, and having other interests on the go. She finds people in her profession need to find ways to keep fresh and keep their batteries charged.

One of the key survival skills for the counsellor is to have outside activities and interests, she said.

"I don't want to get tired of helping people, that's what I really enjoy doing."

Students wanting to get into this type of work require a master's degree and practicums in the counselling area.

A knowledge of human rights issues concerning people with disabilities would be an asset Nixon said.

She added some familiarity with the assessments used in colleges and how to interpret them would also be helpful.



(Photo by Darren Smith)

Kelly Nixon has been working as a counsellor in disability services for the past 11 years. She was involved in creating the new course for native studies called In and Out of Time, Balancing Communities. She says doing things outside of counselling is something that helps her cope on the job.



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Two new chairs are settling in at Conestoga

By DAWN HASSON

The two new chairs of the school of business are enjoying their new positions.

Brian Harvey started his new role at Conestoga College on Sept. 8.

"This has been a wonderful job so far," said Harvey. "Virtually all the people I've met have been really nice and easy to work with."

Harvey came to the college after working as an academic supervisor in the Middle East for various information technology, educational technology and business programs. He was a teacher there as well.

"When I came back I was looking for work in the college system at a few select colleges and Conestoga was actually number 1 or 2 on my list," said Harvey. "In terms of high-quality colleges, Conestoga was very high on my list."

Harvey currently resides in Peterborough, but, during the school week, he lives in an apartment in the Preston area of Cambridge. He plans to move to Kitchener within the next few months.

Harvey praises the students and the program co-ordinators in the school of business for making his new job so enjoyable.

"I've tried to get into the class-

rooms and introduce myself to the students in the programs that I chair, so at least they know who I am and that they have an open invitation to come in here and sit down and talk if they need to."

The second chair, Faye McKay, started her new role at Conestoga College on Sept. 15.

Mckay said she was interested in the job because she enjoys doing program supervision.

"I'm an educational manager. That's what I do; that's what I've done for the last 15 years," McKay said.

She worked at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) for 16 years at the branch in Saskatoon.

Prior to that, McKay worked for seven years overseas at various colleges of technology.

Mckay praises the faculty as well as the students she's seen so far.

"The faculty here are great," said McKay.

"I am impressed with how qualified they are, not just in terms of education, but in experience and how much they care about the students."

The school of business needs two chairs because of the large number of students and programs. Harvey and McKay have split the workload in half.

Their duties include planning programs, evaluating the content of programs, dealing with prob-

lems that arise in programs as well as relationships between the college's programs and other institutions.

The chairs are also responsible for talking to students if there are disciplinary problems.

However, McKay said she hasn't run into any trouble with the students yet.

"The problems are the same regardless of which school you're at," said McKay. "It's all about student success and what we can do to make the students successful."

The two new chairs are currently reviewing the school of business programs to see if they meet all the necessary requirements.

Vehicle-related theft still a concern

By RYAN CONNELL

Vehicle-related thefts remain a concern for security services at Conestoga College.

Head of security Al Hunter said vehicle theft has been continuing on campus with people stealing vehicles for joyriding.

"It only takes the thieves about

five minutes to change vehicles and drive away," Hunter said. "We are always monitoring the security cameras for any suspicious behaviour."

The thefts, which have recently been Chrysler minivans and Dodge Caravans, have been caught on camera. Videotapes have been handed over to Waterloo Regional Police.

Most recently, a CD player was

reported stolen from a Sunfire vehicle in Lot 5 on Feb. 13. There was no sign of forced entry into the vehicle.

More than 3,000 vehicles are on campus each day with 3,300 parking spots available.

Students are asked to report any suspicious behaviour in the parking lots to security services.

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This "four session" group is available beginning the week of
March 8th.

Workshop Facilitator- Jennifer Meksula

Think outside the box



Carrie
Hoto

Opinion

strong-willed person I have ever met. A true leader in every sense; enough determination to make a believer out of the biggest cynic and enough driving force to start a '57 Chevy in the dead of the winter.

It's shocking what impact one person can make in your life. Making you truly believe anything is possible; knowing your power goes far beyond the size of your body. Taking a less than stellar situation and turning it into an exciting challenge. Finding the silver lining in the rubbish.

Just by muttering a silly anecdote you can make someone laugh, or by just taking time to say hi you can lift spirits.

He's shown me a lot of success comes from failure and he's made me see mistakes are just stepping stones. I've learned if you don't falter it's probably because you don't take chances. Just don't get stuck in the pothole of dwelling on your faux pas.

Dream big. And be passionate. You really never know whose life you are changing and whose life you are impacting.

A day to celebrate women

By VALENTINA RAPOORT

March 8 marks another year for International Women's Day (IWD).

In 1908, more than 15,000 women marched in New York to protest for shorter working hours, better wages and the right to vote. By 1911, IWD also became a marked day for women in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million men and women gathered to protest for the rights of women. In 1945 the Charter of United Nations (UN) was signed in San Francisco, standing up for gender equality as a fundamental right. One of their goals was to advance the status of women worldwide. In 1977 IWD was established in writing by the UN.

Here are some events taking place locally during March 8 to 12 in hon-

our of IWD.

* March 7-March 12: U of W's Womyn's Centre will co-ordinate a variety of on-campus events to raise awareness for IWD. For details contact 888-4567 ext. 3457

* March 8: The Kitchener Public Library at 85 Queen St. N., will hold a free lecture at noon by Ginette Lafreniere, faculty of social work at WLU. A short documentary will also be shown.

* March 8: The Zonta Club, at 1266 Walper Terrace Hotel in the crystal ballroom, will have guest speaker Flora Macdonald. There is a \$25 charge that will include hors d'oeuvres by local dining establishments.

* March 8: you can visit <http://www.cjsf.bc.ca> for a full day of on-air female performers based out of a B.C. radio station.

The nomination packages for the Conestoga Students Inc. Board of Directors will be available in the CSI office.

The nomination period will begin March 15th and end March 22nd at noon.

CONESTOGA
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(Photo by Jennifer Howden)

Mmmmm Slushie

Graphic design student Sabrina Mabey, 25, pours a drink from the Slush Puppie machine at the rec centre on Feb. 27.

Hard-hitting lacrosse: a game of the future

BY NICK HORTON

Chill the beer, open a few bags of chips and invite your friends over to watch the sport of the 21st century. Lacrosse.

Russ Cline, chairman of the National Lacrosse League (NLL) and owner of the Philadelphia Wings, believes lacrosse is the game of the future.

"This is a sport for the 21st century," he said on Fox Sports during Game 2 of a recent home-and-home series between the Philadelphia Wings and Toronto Rock.

Maybe a little optimistic, but in Ontario, what else are you going to watch?

Would you prefer to watch the Leafs come up short or Vince Carter sulk on the bench?

The NFL has wrapped up and the CFL likewise. Baseball isn't quite here and curling is dryer than Dennis Miller Live.

For a change, the people of Ontario can watch a team that wins championships, the Rock.

Colin "Popeye" Doyle, a Kitchener native and one of the most dominant players in the NLL, is the backbone of the Toronto Rock. For the former Kitchener-Waterloo Brave, scooping up loose balls, notching short-handed goals and leading the league in scoring is as familiar as cutting the lawn.

In a recent radio interview, Doyle commented on the rowdy Philadelphia fans, saying he once had a beer poured on his head in the penalty box. In this perspective, it isn't too different from hockey.

Nonetheless, the Rock, four-time NLL champions, bring a winning attitude to a province that hasn't seen a meaningful professional sports franchise win since Doug Flutie was scrambling for the Argos and Joe Carter was slamming moon-shots for the Blue Jays.

The fact of the matter is, the Toronto Rock squeeze a winning and exciting product into a market that has little room, but growing support.

Headline Sports and CTV Sportsnet both pick up Rock games, while 15,000 fans, sans suit and laptop, fill the Air Canada Centre.

Lacrosse offers everything hockey has to offer, yet refined and vastly marketable.

A staple of its popularity and hence, marketability, is the end to end action, a shot clock, and "real" fighting.

After an errant shot or offensive miscue, the Indian rubber ball is quickly moved up the rink, often on a fast break. The 30-second shot-clock keeps offences honest and isn't a constant disruption. Of course, the fighting is the icing on the cake. No longer burdened by the awkwardness of ice and skates, players duke it out with their heads up, fists high and the crowd roaring.

It's no wonder Killian's Irish Red beer, an official sponsor of the NLL, uses this clever jingle.

"Forgive that stick to the head!" "Delighted," his good buddy said. "Accept this whack back and one extra smack ... and later let's go raise a red!"

March 9 trade deadline great for hockey fans

By JEFF HEUCHERT

It could possibly be the most exciting few weeks of the National Hockey League season. More thrilling than the All Star Game and even the playoffs. It's the NHL trade deadline, and the past few busy weeks come to an end tomorrow.

At 3 p.m. teams attempting to secure the missing pieces they need for a deep run into the playoffs will be out of luck.

It's these last weeks that always produce the most compelling TV for hockey fans.

If hockey is at the back of your mind in late April, it's sure not to be after the trade deadline. Nothing is more exciting than watching in anticipation to see if your team will make a big trade.

As of a week ago, many big names had already moved from hopeless teams to contenders.

Washington began their dismantling when they dealt star forward Jaromir Jagr to the New York Rangers. Shortly after, longtime

Capital Peter Bondra was sent to Ottawa, and Robert Lang was dealt to Detroit.

The Philadelphia Flyers hope they solved their goaltender problem when they acquired Sean Burke from Phoenix and Tampa Bay bulked up their defence by acquiring Darryl Sydor.

There are still many rumours going around of possible trades, some of which might already be complete by the time you read this and some which might never happen.

At the top of this list once again is the Washington Capitals, who might be looking to deal goaltender Olie Kolzig to Colorado, where he would back up David Aebischer.

As well, Capital Sergei Gonchar has been sought by many teams and is probably playing in Dallas and Toronto by now, if not in a few days.

After another disappointing season in Columbus and Carolina the Blue Jackets' Geoff Sanderson and Hurricanes' Jeff O'Neill are being looked at by the St. Louis Blues.

What makes the trade deadline so interesting is up until the last second you never know who could be dealt, or if the teams involved will benefit from the deals.

Last season the Maple Leafs acquired Owen Nolan, Doug Gilmour, Glen Wesley and Phil Housley, and lost in the first round of the playoffs.

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks acquired Steve Thomas, Rob Niedermayer and Sandis Ozolinsh at the deadline, and made it to Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals.

The New York Rangers are a perfect example of how trades at the deadline cannot turn around a team. In 2002 they acquired Pavel Bure, last year Alexei Kovalev and Anson Carter, and this year Jagr. They haven't made the playoffs in any of these years, and would need a miracle to get in this year.

No matter who gets dealt or doesn't on Tuesday, most NHL fans will be watching what has become the highlight of the NHL season each year.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Stress and Stress Management

Part 1: What is Stress?

Stress has become part of our everyday vocabulary. Why write a column on stress when everyone deals with it daily? Since stress is misunderstood and mismanaged, let's start with understanding. Stress denotes the changes that we undergo as we experience and adjust to our continually changing environment. It has physical and emotional effects on us and can create positive or negative feelings. As a positive influence, stress creates anticipation and excitement and can compel us to action (remember that clutch single that won the T-ball game for your team?). As a negative influence, stress can result in discomfort, anger and rejection, with health problems such as headaches, upset stomach and insomnia.

Although almost everyone responds to some situations with a high level of stress (death of a loved one, birth of a child, beginning or ending a relationship), individuals respond differently to most situations. These become stressors for an individual only if they are construed as threatening or dangerous. Most of us cringe at the thought of having to parachute from an airplane; some find it a challenge. Most of us avoid contact with snakes. Others keep them as pets. Most of us experience anxiety at the thought of presenting in front of a class, and while some will do anything to avoid it, a few get totally turned on.

The goal is not to eliminate stress but to learn how to manage it and even use it to help us.

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Important Information

- Obtain the access code from Career Services to register as a student or grad on www.workopoliscampus.com.
- Fill out the registration page on www.workopoliscampus.com and ensure that you check the box that allows Career Services to send you updates.
- Check the on-line “Campus Bulletin Board” for additional employer registrations.
- Obtain an “Employer Information Booklet” from Career Services, one week prior to the on campus Job Fair.

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City of Cambridge – Summer Staff; Cambridge

Gateman Milloy – Summer Staff; Kitchener

J.Steckle Heritage Homestead – Environmental Educator; Kitchener

J. Steckle Heritage Homestead – Agricultural Educator; Kitchener

Camp Arowhon – Camp Staff; Algonquin Park

Conestoga College – Bookstore Clerk; Kitchener

City of Burlington – Summer Staff; Burlington

Severn Lodge – Summer Staff; Port Severn

City of Waterloo – Summer Staff; Waterloo

City of Cambridge – Patrollers; Cambridge

Laggan's Mountain Bakery – Summer; Lake Louise

Conestoga College – Physical Resources; Kitchener

Onward – Events Team; Waterloo

Drop by Career Services for information on obtaining the access code to search for these jobs and others! Call 748-5220 x3756 or x3340; or visit room 220 – Student Client Services Building (upstairs from the Registrar's Office)